The recent publications in the press and on social media, according to which key staff, recently recruited by the Slovak Paying Agency (APA) may have close links to persons and companies that are being investigated under the so-called Dobytkár case, as well as alleged manipulation of the recruitment procedure for a key managerial position in the APA, are followed up by the Commission under an ongoing conformity enquiry to assess the Paying Agency’s compliance with accreditation criteria.

As these allegations also have links to the mentioned Dobytkár case, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has been informed accordingly as also EU funds might be involved.

The Commission is closely following up the compliance of the Slovak Paying Agency with the accreditation criteria, in particular as regards conflict of interest, as well as any financial risk associated with any identified deficiency. The Commission will take all necessary measures to protect the EU budget.